

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 031474

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DRAFTED BY: NASA:I/B.GOETZ

APPROVED BY: SCI/SAM:VRESHLEMAN

S/FW-CDR. LEROY ARA/BR-MR. A. WATSON PM/ISO-COL. FLEMINGS

ARA/LPC-COL JAMES WILLIAMS

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R 152106Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, BR

SUBJ: TEMPORARY VISIT OF NASA TRACKING SHIP VANGUARD

1. NASA TRACKING SHIP VANGUARD HAS JUST COMPLETED SKYLAB SUPPORT MISSION IN ARGENTINA AND IS EXPECTED TO PROCEED INDIAN OCEAN IN APRIL FOR NASA'S MISSION SUPPORT. SINCE SAILING TIME CONSTRAINTS PROHIBIT SHIP FROM RETURNING ALL THE WAY TO US FOR DRY DOCK REPAIRS AND INSTALLATION OF SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO SUPPORT MISSION, NASA WISHES UNDERTAKE NECESSARY REPAIRS IN RIO OR OTHER BRAZILIAN PORT.

2. REQUEST FOR MARINE CLEARANCE AND BERTHING RIGHTS IN RIO HAS BEEN INITIATED BY US MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND (MSC) WHICH OPERATES VESSEL FOR NASA. SHIP PLANS DEPARTURE FROM MAR DEL PLATA O/A FEBRUARY 16 AND ETA RIO FEB 20.

3. EXPECT BASIC DRY DOCK REPAIRS WILL REQUIRE MINIMUM OF 6-10 DAYS AT WHICH POINT SHIP COULD BE MOVED ELSEWHERE IF BERTHING SPACE SCARCE, OR SECURITY WARRANTS. TOTAL TIME ENVISIONED FOR STAY IN BRAZIL UP TO 100 DAYS. LOCATION FOR STAY NEEDED WHERE
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PAGE 02 STATE 031474

INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, SHIP REPROVISIONED

AND ACCESS AVAILABLE TO LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS LINES. REQUEST EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDANCE.

4. SHIP WILL CARRY NASA STATION DIRECTOR, 40 TECHNICAL CONTRACT EMPLOYEES OF BENDIX CORP., AND 90 MSC CREW. ALL WILL RESIDE ON BOARD SHIP. DURING STAY IN BRAZIL CREW ROTATION WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED. ALSO EXPECT VISIT OF TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS FROM NASA AND NASA CONTRACTORS TO ASSIST IN REPAIR AND INSTALLATION. NO EMBASSY ASSISTANCE WILL BE REQUIRED.

5. BEYOND GENERAL LOGISTIC AND SPARE PARTS, SPECIFIC MISSION EQUIPMENT INCLUDES 2-3 RACKS OF ELECTRONIC GEAR TO EQUIP SHIP WITH VHF COMMAND CAPABILITY. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIPPING BEING MADE WITH LOCAL RIO AGENT OF MOORE-MCCORMACK. REQUEST EMBASSY ADVICE WHETHER AGENT CAN HANDLE REQUIRED CUSTOM CLEARANCE. IF NOT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE.

6. NO OPERATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED WHILE IN BRAZIL. ALL EFFORTS STRICTLY SHIP YARD WORK. NASA WILL WORK THROUGH LOCAL COMMUNICATION AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN CIRCUIT FOR VOICE COMMUNICATION WITH NASA'S NASCOM NETWORK.

7. THOUGH NO PLANS TO CONTACT EMBASSY UPON ARRIVAL SHIP UNLESS PROBLEMS DEVELOP, EMBASSY PERSONNEL OF COURSE WELCOME TO VISIT SHIP DURING STAY, AND, IF DESIRED LOCAL AUTHORITIES. PORTER

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